

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 BEIRUT 13398 281646Z

42

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 CCO-00 /026 W
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R 281555Z OCT 75
FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6884
INFO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY CAIRO

S E C R E T BEIRUT 13398

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, LE, EG, SY
SUBJECT: LEBANESE-SYRIAN RELATIONSHIP AND ARAB HELP IN LEBANESE
IMBROGLIO

REF BEIRUT 13334 AND 13090

1. FOREIGN MINISTER TAQLA ASKED ME TO CALL LATE YESTERDAY AFTERNOON, OCT 27, AT PRESIDENTIAL PALACE BAABDA, WHERE HE IS PRESENTLY LIVING AND WORKING. AMONG SUBJECTS DISCUSSED WERE LEBANESE-SYRIAN RELATIONS. I TOLD HIM MY CONVERSATIONS WITH CHAMOUN AND HE WAS EXTREMELY INTERESTED, FOR HE SAID HE WAS PUSHING PRESIDENT FRANGIE TO MEET WITH PRESIDENT ASAD. HE ASKED WHAT I THOUGHT OF IT AND I SAID, SPEAKING PERSONALLY, IT MADE EXCELLENT SENSE, FOR IT WAS OBVIOUS THAT THE SYRIANS WERE CONTINUING TO SUPPLY WEAPONS AND AMMUNITION, NOT ONLY TO FATAH BUT ALSO TO REJECTIONIST FRONT AND LEBANESE GANGSTER FAR LEFT ELEMENTS. I SUGGESTED, HOWEVER, THAT A VISIT FIRST BY CHAMOUN MIGHT BE USEFUL BUT I DID NOT INSIST ON THIS POINT. AFTER KICKING THIS AROUND FOR A WHILE TAQLA SAID THAT HE TOO HAD COME TO THE SAME CONCLUSION AND WOULD DISCUSS POSSIBLE VISIT WITH CHAMOUN AT NEXT APPROPRIATE MOMENT. HE THEN ASKED WHAT I THOUGHT OF ONCE AGAIN SEEKING ASSISTANCE FROM THE ARAB LEAGUE. I TOLD HIM ALL POSSIBLE ASSISTANCE SHOULD BE SOUGHT BUT I THOUGHT IT PREFERABLE

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FIRST FOR LEBANESE TO GET THEIR DUCKS LINED UP WITH

ASAD. TAQLA AGAIN EXPRESSED CONCERN RE ASAD/SADAT
TIFF HAVING REPERCUSSIONS IN LEBANON. HE HOPED THAT
SADAT COULD MELLOW HIS PUBLIC STATEMENTS RE ASAD.
WHILE HE UNDERSTOOD FULL WELL SADAT'S ANNOYANCE WITH
SYRIANS, HE WAS CONVINCED THAT TRANSFER OF EGYPTIAN/
SYRIAN DISPUTE TO LEBANESE TERRITORY WAS HELPFUL TO NO REPEAT
NO ONE, PARTICULARLY TO THE LEBANESE. GODLEY

SECRET

NNN

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